

CLEAN VERSION OF AMENDED CLAIMS

31 32. A method of controlling a laser module in a wavelength division multiplexing application, the module including temperature control means for controlling a temperature of a laser and a variable attenuation attenuator connected to an output of the laser for controlling power of radiation output from the module, the method comprising the steps of, in the order given:

(a) before applying a laser current to operate the laser module, establishing a predetermined laser temperature using the temperature control means, and setting the attenuator to a maximum attenuation;

(b) applying the laser current having a value which produces a nominal desired wavelength, and controlling the laser current to give a wavelength of operation substantially equal to the desired wavelength; and

(c) reducing the maximum attenuation of the attenuator to a level to give a predetermined output power from the laser module.

32 35. The method according to claim 32, wherein the attenuation is reduced gradually during step (c).

33 38. The method according to claim 35, wherein the attenuation is reduced in ramp fashion.

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64 44. The method according to claim 32, wherein step (b) utilizes two wavelength-monitoring means having maximum sensitivity at wavelengths respectively slightly greater than and less than a nominal wavelength of operation.

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